

DATE:	2021 April 5
TO:	Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Peace Region Clinicians
FROM:	Dr. A. Brent Mendez, Alberta Precision Laboratories & DynaLIFE Medical Labs, Regional Lab Medicine Site Chief, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Grande Prairie, Alberta
RE:	Discontinuation of Sweat Chloride Testing at Queen Elizabeth II Hospital Effective April 10, 2021

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Sweat chloride collection and analysis will be discontinued at Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Grande Prairie, AB with an effective date of April 10, 2021.

Background:

- Significant decline in test volumes since introduction of newborn metabolic screening for Cystic Fibrosis in 2014 and the need for this test in the Peace Region is currently very low.
- Volume of current testing is too low to maintain CLSI recommended competence levels.
- CLSI guidelines have changed since original implementation and current referral patterns and testing methodologies as well as decision levels require updating.
- Current methodology of testing is a screening process only and definitive analysis would require quantitative measurements not available in Grande Prairie possibly delaying diagnosis.
- Provincial standardization of laboratory processes has identified this test as one to be centralized due to specialized equipment and training necessary for accurate and reliable results.

How this will impact you:

- All query Cystic Fibrosis patients require referral to Edmonton for testing as of April 10, 2021.

Action required:

- Ensure that you and your staff are aware of the change in testing and referral patterns in relation to the use of sweat chloride testing for the diagnosis of Cystic Fibrosis in the Grande Prairie and Peace Region.

Questions and Comments:

- Dr. A. Brent Mendez, 780-538-7417, allen.mendez@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- Cystic Fibrosis Clinic, 780-407-6745

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

- Dr. A. Brent Mendez, Alberta Precision Laboratories & DynaLIFE Medical Labs, Regional Lab Medicine Site Chief, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Grande Prairie.
- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, North Sector Associate Medical Director, Divisional Director Transfusion Medicine, Medical Informatics Lead, Alberta Precision Laboratories.